

Feb. 2004 Report: Columbus an inexpensive place for business

KPMG LLP has singled Columbus out as one of the least expensive cities in which to do business.

Columbus ranked sixth among 24 cities with populations of at least 1.5 million on KPMG's Competitive Alternatives Survey. The full survey appears at www.competitivealternatives.com

Columbus "benefited from very competitive land and construction costs, as well as favorable transportation costs associated with central locations," KPMG said, noting Columbus' emerging strength in logistics, information technology and telecommunications equipment and services.

The study was intended to give companies an easy way to pick cost-effective locations for their operations, KPMG said. The accounting and consulting firm looked at 27 variables, such as labor costs, land costs and taxes, to compile the rankings. The national average was given a score of 100. Columbus, which scored 99.8, was one of six cities to score below 100.

San Juan, Puerto Rico, came in as the cheapest city, with an index score of 93. San Jose brought up the rear with an index score of 110.9.